MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D.L. I BAITHA); (a) Airframe and engines of only one<*ype"of trainer aircraft of. the , IAF are sent abroad for repair$_8$ and overhaul.

(b) The annual expenditure incurred on the repairs and overhaul of the engines of these trainer aircraft over the last three years is as follows:—

Year	*Amount in Lakhs (Rs,)*
1986	82.26
1987	102.68
1988	177.41*

(c) The increase in expenditure due to escalation in rates of repair has been kept within 7 per cent annually.

(d) and (e) The possibility of setting up overhaul facilities for this trainer aircraft in India was examined and the proposal was dropped in 1987 it was not considered, to be economical.

Supply of ration to card holders of army State

1643. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 655 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 1989 arid state:

(a) whether it i$_s$ a fact that the supply of all kinds of cereals etc. in the dry ration to *the* families of ration card holders of Army Staff by DID on cash payment has **still not been normalised;**

(b) if **so,** what action Government **have taken** in this regard;

(c) whether it i$_s$ also a fact that fresh **ration, *viz,* mutton, egges; chicken etc. is being sold in black market by the officers and the ration card holders are denied the** isame; **and**

(d) what action Government propose 1o take to remove the difficulties being faced by the families of the Army personnel posted at far-flung areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES , IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (.SHRI D.L. . BAITHA): (a) to (d) The supply position of dry rations to ration card holders is generally normal. Local restrictions are sometimes placed on the issue of rice and sugar only, if the itock position so requires. Steps as necessary are then taken to replenish stocks.

Ration Card holders are not entitled to fresh rations. The question of their being denied issues of mutton, eggs, chicken etc. because of illicit sale of fresh ration$_s$ by officers does not, therefore, arise.

Setting up of electronic telephone exchanges

1644. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to iset up more Electronic Telephone Exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such exchanges likely to be set up during the next **three** years, yearwise;

(c) funds allocated for this purpose;

(d) the present number of Electronic and non-Electronic Telephone Exchanges in the country in each State; and

(e) by when all Telephone Exchanges are likely to be converted into Electronic Exchanges including in Delhi?

THE **MINISTER OF** STATE OF **THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.**

(b)	***1989-90***	**1186**
	1990-91	**1960**
	1991-92	**2296**
	TOTAL	**544J**

(c) About Rs. 2445 croreu ed are **requir-for this purpose.**

(d) As on 31-3-1989.